Amendments to the Claims

1.   (currently amended) A <u>method of securing a</u> safety device <u>relative to a rope</u>, comprising:

<u>providing</u> a base;

~~a handle~~ pivotally ~~mounted~~ <u>mounting a handle</u> on the base;

~~a cleat~~ pivotally ~~mounted~~ <u>mounting a cleat</u> on the base; and

<u>routing the</u> a rope ~~routed~~ into the device and through a first rope clamping space defined between the cleat and a bearing surface on the base, then through a second rope clamping space defined between the cleat and a hub on the handle, then around the hub and through a third rope clamping space defined between the hub and another bearing surface on the base, then through the second rope clamping space defined between the cleat and the hub, wherein the rope overlaps itself, and then out of the device.

2.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 1, further comprising <u>connecting</u> a cover ~~connected~~ to the base, wherein the cover and a portion of the base are disposed on opposite sides of the handle, the cleat, and the rope.

3.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 2, wherein the cover is pivotally mounted on the base and pivots between an open position, providing access to respective gaps defined between the hub, the cleat, and the bearing surfaces on the base, and a closed position, spanning the gaps.

4.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 3, wherein respective openings in the cover and the base align to receive a fastener when the cover occupies the closed position.

5.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 4, wherein the handle and the base define a pivot axis, and the cleat is disposed between the pivot axis and the opening in the base.

6.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 1, wherein the hub is eccentrically mounted on the base.

7.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 6, wherein the hub is bounded by a perimeter having an arcuate portion and a straight portion, and the straight portion is most proximate a pivot axis defined between the hub and the base.

8.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ <u>method</u> of claim 7, wherein the hub is configured like a sheave along the arcuate portion of its perimeter.

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9.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ method of claim 1, wherein the rope is compressed between the hub and the base in response to pivoting of the handle in a first direction.

10.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ method of claim 9, wherein the rope is compressed between the hub and the cleat in response to pivoting of the handle in an opposite, second direction.

11.   (previously amended) A method of securing a safety device relative to a rope, comprising the steps of:

       providing a base with at least one bearing member;

       pivotally mounting a first member on the base;

       pivotally mounting a second member on the base;

       routing the rope between the at least one bearing member and the first member, then between the first member and the second member, then about the second member and between the second member and the at least one bearing member, and then between the second member and the first member again;

       selectively compressing the rope between the first member and the at least one bearing member;

       selectively compressing the rope between the second member and the at least one bearing member; and

       selectively compressing the rope between the first member and the second member.

12.   (previously amended) A method of securing a safety device relative to a rope, comprising the steps of:

       providing a base with at least one bearing member;

       pivotally mounting a first member on the base in such a manner that the first member and the at least one bearing member define a first gap therebetween;

       pivotally mounting a second member on the base in such a manner that the second member and the first member define a second gap therebetween, and the second member and the at least one bearing member define a third gap therebetween;

       routing the rope through the first gap, then through the second gap, then about the second member and through the third gap, and then through the second gap again;

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compressing the rope between the first member and the at least one bearing member in response to pivoting of the first member in a first direction; and

compressing the rope between the first member and the second member in response to pivoting of the first member in an opposite, second direction.

13.   (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the first member is pivotally mounted in eccentric fashion on the base, so the first gap has a width that varies as a function of orientation of the first member relative to the base.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the second member is pivotally mounted in eccentric fashion on the base, so the third gap has a width that varies as a function of orientation of the second member relative to the base.

15.   (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the second gap has a width that varies as a function of both orientation of the first member relative to the base and orientation of the second member relative to the base.

16.   (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the second member is pivotally mounted in eccentric fashion on the base, so the third gap has a width that varies as a function of orientation of the second member relative to the base.

17.   (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the second gap also has a width that varies as a function of orientation of the second member relative to the base.

18.   (currently amended) The ~~safety device~~ method of claim 1, wherein the hub pivots in a first direction to compress the rope against the third bearing surface on the base, and the hub pivots in an opposite, second direction to compress the rope against the cleat.

19.   (previously added) The method of claim 11, wherein the rope is compressed between the first member and the at least one bearing member in response to pivoting of the first member in a first direction; and the rope is compressed between the first member and the second member in response to pivoting of the first member in an opposite, second direction.

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